

From: [Ashman, Christopher](#)
To: [Ryde Town Council Clerk](#)
Subject: Potential funding opportunity - Empty Buildings
Date: 25 September 2019 16:06:00

Dear Clerk

I am writing to make the council aware of a potential funding opportunity in relation to bringing Heritage Buildings at risk back into use.

The council and local stakeholders need to be congratulated in their recent success in accessing Heritage High St funding and the profile this generates can complement bids to other related funding programmes.

The Lottery funded "Heritage Horizons" programme provides grants of over £5m to "transformative, innovative" heritage based proposals.

As you know the Ryde Theatre/Town Hall is a matter of great concern to local people and is referenced in the councils position statement as a priority issue, the iowc regeneration team also funded a feasibility study by a local empty buildings group in 2018 which explored the idea of creating a creative hub at the former town hall.

This funding programme represents the only major grant source to address projects of the scale of the theatre/town hall. If successful this fund may help in developing ideas further and then bringing forward a potentially sustainable proposal that could be put to the buildings current owner.

To that end I would ask the council consider submitting an expression of interest to this fund , with the support of the IOWC regeneration team in funding the completion of the necessary eoi document?

The council would not be committing to purchasing , leasing or funding the project in anyway at this stage by submitting the EOI and if successful the IOWC would want to discuss how to support the project going forward.

The deadline for submission of the EOI is the 11th October 2019.

Regards

Chris Ashman
Director of Regeneration
Isle of Wight Council | County Hall | Newport | Isle of Wight PO30 1UD
Tel: (01983) 821000 ext. 6275 or 07976009341 | Fax: (01983) 821000
Email: Christopher.Ashman@iow.gov.uk | Web: www.iwight.com



I proudly support

Apprenticeships

as an Apprenticeship Champion